

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

SENT TO: U.S. Mission GENEVA TOSEC 36

NIACT

EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE
ACTING SECRETARY
RE SECTO 25-762.00/7-2362

The following comments have been prepared by senior officers of the Department, including Bohlen:

In view of shortage of time and necessity of it reaching you before your next meeting with Gromyko, it has not REPEAT NOT had White House clearance, therefore represents only Departmental view.

Gromyko's comments in your two meetings do not add any factual material or any new arguments which would be of assistance in making a new evaluation of Soviet intentions. General tenor of the conversation seems to us to stick squarely on previous positions but is presented in a somewhat more definitive way in regard to the signature of a separate peace treaty. It is likewise noticed that Gromyko read from a paper which would indicate that he was operating under instructions from highest authority, but it is also noted that he

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tended to back away at end of first conversation on the threat aspect of his remarks. It is also significant that he put not time limit or date in regard to the signature of a peace treaty and was even more evasive when pressed as to exactly what would be its consequences other than implication of his remark that arrangements would have to be made with GDR and not with Soviet Union.

when satisfied that there is no give to use this as a justification for an eventual separate peace treaty.

Another conceivable but less likely motivation is that a strong negative Western attitude might be utilized by the Soviets as an argument against those elements within the communist bloc (in particular East

(Germans) or even within the Soviet Government who have been pressing for

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a radical solution of Berlin question. A strong Western attitude would demonstrate that any radical solution carries with it a great risk of war. We are unable to carry the analysis any farther.

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a radical solution of Berlin question. A strong Western attitude would demonstrate that any radical solution carries with it a great risk of war. We are unable to carry the analysis any farther.

It is of course conceivable that Gromyko may show some more flexibility in your next meeting with him, which we understand is at noon, Geneva time, tomorrow. We have noted that Gromyko has referred to the removal of Western forces as the "crucial point" of discussion. You might care at the next session if he sticks to this point to say that you had already given all the arguments as to why this was quite inconceivable for Western acceptance and in general shorten the conversation if there seems to be no Soviet give and tell Gromyko you would report his attitude to the President on your return and suggest that he should do the same with Khrushchev.

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